

SCENIC
BEAUTIES
OF
ENGLAND
AND FRANCE





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. D 967 Copyright No.

Shelf. S 28

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SCENIC BEAUTIES IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE

SCENIC BEAUTIES
IN
ENGLAND AND FRANCE

WITH DESCRIPTIVE TEXT



CHICAGO
BELFORD, MIDDLEBROOK & CO
—
MDCCCXCVIII



THE OAKS, SURREY.

The Oaks, formerly the hunting-seat of the Earls of Derby, lies a little south of a line joining Epsom and Croydon, and is about four miles from each town. Being for years little more than a rendezvous for hunting or pleasure parties, the property remained unimproved. Finally it came into the possession of the Derby family, who increased the size of the inclosure and added to the old building the enormous wings whose towers are now so conspicuous afar. The name "Oaks" is due to the presence of some of the finest old trees to be found in England.



KNOLE PARK, KENT.

This picturesque seat is near the outskirts of Sevenoaks, a town about twenty miles southeast of London. In the course of the centuries it has changed owners oftener than most old English mansions, thus associating its name with those of many noble families and of visiting royalty. Cromwell besieged and took it, despoiling it of its valuable collection of weapons, plate and pictures; but enough yet remains to render the mansion's rooms of considerable interest to tourists and sightseers.



WHITECHURCH, OXFORDSHIRE.

Picturesque beyond comparison, Whitechurch is situated in the southernmost part of Oxfordshire, on the north bank of the Thames and about fifteen miles below the famous university town Oxford. Though many of its houses have been modernized, there is yet a fair sprinkling of old ones, which, with the unchanged and unchanging occupations of the inhabitants, render Whitechurch a favorite point with those whose leisure and means permit them to search out scenes of rural quietude and beauty. To the attractions of fishing and boating are here added those of short excursions to various points of interest in the vicinity.



GUY'S CLIFF, WARWICKSHIRE.

This romantic seat is situated on the right bank of the Avon, about a mile from Warwick. It took its name from a remote ancestor of the Earl of Warwick, the hero of many fabulous adventures. The mansion, built of stone, occupies an eminence overlooking the river, and, though it dates only from the eighteenth century, the site is rich in legends and traditions—the favorite themes of poesy. The tower of the chapel and the well-preserved shrine are objects of interest to the traveler.



OCKWELLS MANOR, BERKSHIRE.

The original manor-house upon this site was erected in the thirteenth century, but its restoration in the fifteenth amounted to a rebuilding, the materials of the old structure having been utilized where practicable. The hall is especially remarkable by reason of its large bay window, whose stained glass bears heraldic record of many previous owners of the property. Oliver Cromwell spent some time here, as is attested by relics which are still preserved.



WINGFIELD MANOR, DERBYSHIRE.

The estate on which Wingfield Manor is situated was granted by William the Conqueror to one of his retainers, and was held by his descendants till the time of Henry VI., when it changed owners and its manor-house was rebuilt. Mary Queen of Scots was held a prisoner here for several years, and later, during the Civil War, it was the scene of desperate conflicts between the Royalists and Roundheads. At the hands of the latter it fared so badly that only one tower escaped destruction.



COWDRAY HOUSE, SUSSEX.

This fine old castellated mansion fell a victim to a fire something over a hundred years ago, and no effort has been made to restore it after the plan and on the scale furnished by the massive stone towers which survived the conflagration. Its park extends to the town of Midhurst, and the property is visited by all whom business or pleasure detains in its vicinity. Dating from the time of Henry VIII., it numbered Edward VI. and Elizabeth among its guests, and was equipped with everything which could contribute to their comfort and pleasure.



CHATSWORTH HOUSE, DERBYSHIRE.

Chatsworth is situated among the "Peaks" of North Derbyshire, and is traversed by the Derwent, which is here an inconsiderable stream. The property comprises 83,829 acres and its mansion is one of the largest and finest in England. The original hall was rebuilt in the sixteenth century by Sir William Cavendish, and every succeeding member of his family has done something towards embellishing it. Paintings and carvings by the old masters adorn its spacious chambers, and architecture here exhibits the most charming of its manifold resources.



PENSHURST PLACE, KENT.

This fine old mansion is situated about twenty-four miles southeast of London and four miles from the once fashionable Tunbridge Wells. In common with most of the country-seats of the nobility it suffered from the ravages of war, but had the good fortune finally to pass into the possession of a family who thought it deserving of complete restoration with all its odd mixture of styles. This was done about forty-five years ago, and with complete success, so that Penshurst now parades an architectural splendor as great as in its best days.



HAWARDEN CASTLE, FLINTSHIRE, WALES.

Hawarden Castle, famous as the home of the eminent statesman, Wm. Ewart Gladstone, was built in 1752 and enlarged in 1814. From the time of Cromwell it was the property of the Glynn family, and on the death of the last baronet, Sir Stephen R. Glynn, in 1874, it passed to his son-in-law, Mr. Gladstone, whose recent death was felt throughout the civilized world. There was an older Hawarden Castle, dating from the time of the Conqueror, but its ruins on an eminence near the newer castle derive their interest solely from association with the latter.



SYON HOUSE, MIDDLESEX.

This idyllic old mansion is situated in the midst of large grounds on the left bank of the Thames, directly opposite the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, in Surrey. The town of Brentford is hard by and London is only five miles distant, which accounts for the high esteem in which Syon House was held by its various noble and royal owners. The building has the appearance of a mediæval fortress, and is approached through wide avenues flanked by majestic forest trees whose foliage contrasts pleasantly with the whiteness of the masonry.



AN OLD MILL IN THE PEAKS OF DERBY.

The elevations of north Derbyshire, designated collectively as the "Peaks," are nearly 2,000 feet above the sea-level, and form the central watershed of England. They are interspersed with beautiful valleys watered by streams which pursue their devious course through woodland and meadow to join the upper tributaries of the Mersey, the Don or the Trent. Many furnish power for picturesque mills apparently dating from the time of the Tudors, but persisting in their usefulness despite the changed conditions.



CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN, CANTERBURY.

Canterbury is situated in Kent, England's southeastern county, and is fifty-five miles from London. Of its numerous parish churches St. Martin's is richest in historical associations, for here, before Augustine's arrival in England, Bertha, Ethelbert's queen, worshiped, and here Ethelbert was baptized in the font which is still shown. Thus St. Martin's was the earliest seat of Christianity in England, and its old Saxon masonry is hoary with an age of thirteen centuries.



LICH-GATE AT WELFORD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The lich-gate is an entrance to a churchyard, where the bier is held during the introductory part of the burial service. It is now ordinarily found only in connection with unpretentious churches, and is nothing more than a gate protected by a shed; but in former times it was a conspicuous feature in church architecture, and the ceremonial of holding the bier at this portal was an elaborate one.



THE CHANCEL, LOCKINGTON CHURCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

The central shires of England are rich in examples of church architecture of a style prevalent a hundred years or more ago, and distinctly traceable even in recent structures. Lockington, a hamlet in the northwestern part of Leicestershire, has an interesting old church, ivy-mantled and of irregular masonry. The Gothic windows are deep and quaintly millioned, looking forth upon the gravestones which are the usual accompaniment of village churches in England.



GRAND STAIRCASE, HARDWICK HALL, DERBYSHIRE.

This fine old country seat is situated near the eastern boundary of the shire, about six miles southeast of Chesterfield. The varied charms of the mansion's surroundings are emphasized by the grand scale of its interiors, whose ornamentation belongs to another age, and carries the mind back to the time of the Roundheads and Cavaliers. The lofty ceilings, the spacious corridors, the antique carvings, worthily complete the effect of the park and grounds which first impress the sight-seer as he approaches.



PRESENCE-CHAMBER, HARDWICK HALL, DERBYSHIRE.

The spacious presence-chamber of this old mansion was the scene of much spectacular display and stately ceremonial when the lord of the manor received and entertained royalty and other distinguished guests. From the walls History and Mythology spoke in paintings and carvings which are the delight of the connoisseur, while above the magnificent chimneypiece is one of the proudest devices in history, with its Norman motto below : *DIEU ET MON DROIT*.



OLD COTTAGES AT HEMINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

The village of Hemington is situated in the northwestern part of Leicestershire close to the border of Derby. In many of its humbler abodes and shops is exhibited the tenacity of the English villager in adhering to the forms, customs and modes of life handed down to him from by-gone times. Thus shopkeeper Oldershaw finds no occasion to exchange his present quarters for more commodious ones, and he continues to offer his wares in a building doubtless erected two hundred years before by some antecedent Oldershaw. No such combination of bricks and beams could be found anywhere in the United States.



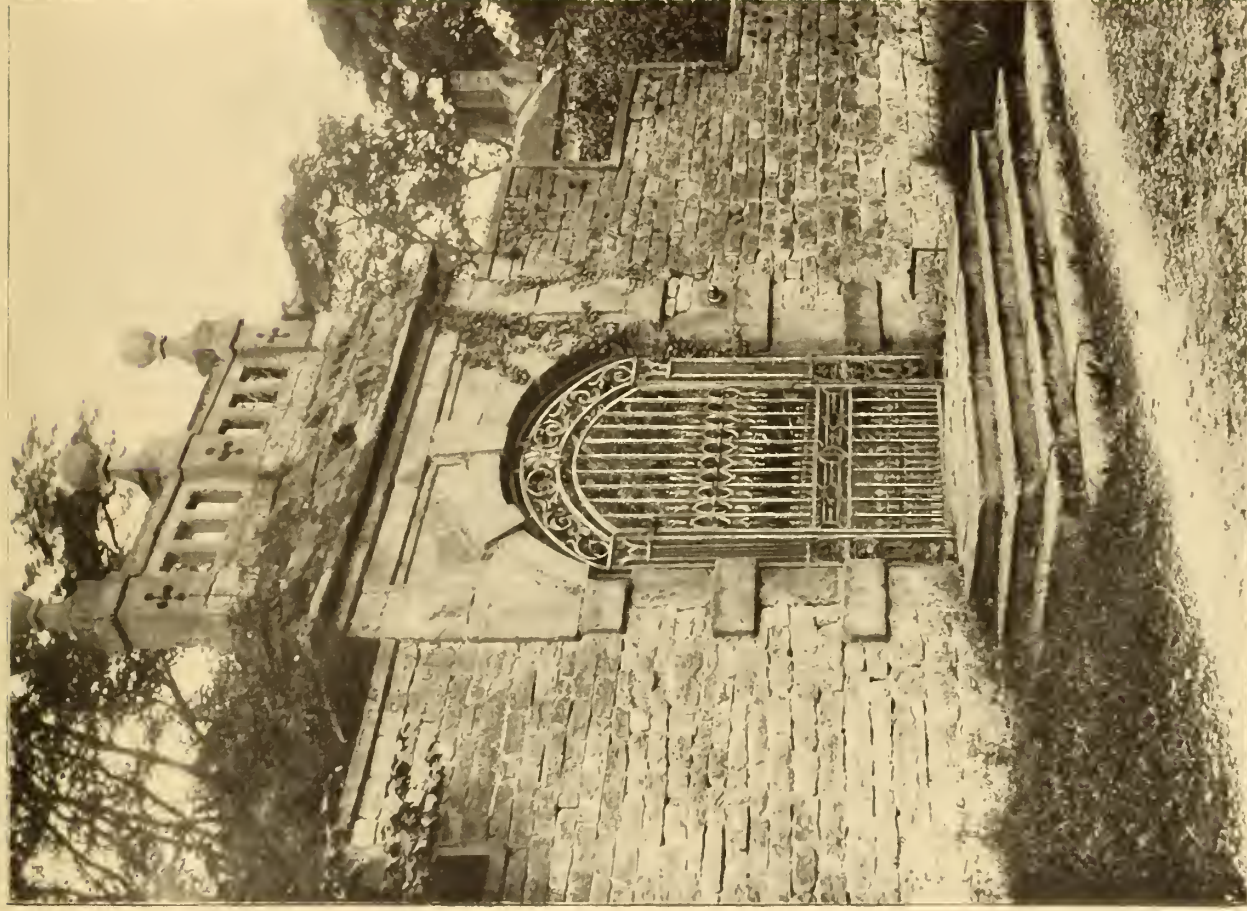
BANK HOUSE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

While Stafford is not so distinctively agricultural as some of the midland shires of England, no inconsiderable part of its wealth is derived from its farming interests. The old-fashioned English farmhouse with outbuildings is a familiar feature of the landscape, lending a flavor of antiquity and rebuking innovations which try to assert themselves here so close to the manufacturing centres. The occupants of these farmhouses are midway in consequence and influence between the numerous small proprietors and country gentry



BANK HOUSE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

To the eye of an American agriculturist accustomed to the use of labor-saving machinery and conveniences of every kind, the older English farmhouses seem utterly inadequate for the needs of their inmates. In truth, the exteriors promise little, and the visitor is surprised to find inside so many comforts showing that the occupants of these old dwellings, though unwilling to demolish or modernize them, are not averse to beautifying their interiors in a measure to render them pleasing habitations comparatively.



GATE AT TISSINGTON HALL, DERBYSHIRE.

The gate itself, of iron, seems a later addition to the weather-worn masonry which forms its setting. The massiveness of this, no less than the crumbling mortar between the stones, is indicative of an age in which it was usual to inclose private grounds thus. The chief objection to stone walls is that they shut off the view and the breeze; in their favor is the look of age they impart. Admittance to the grounds here is gained by means of the bell, which summons the gate-keeper from his dwelling near by.



PRIEST'S DOOR, MORLEY CHURCH, NEAR DERBY.

Derbyshire is famous for its churches, of which the most are in the Norman or Early English style. This doorway exhibits the pretty effect of vines and creepers climbing up the pilasters and resting upon the copings, enlaving the secluded entrance which the officiating priest uses. The door itself is of massive oaken planks firmly held by the iron braces to which they are screwed. The pathway leading to it is paved with evenly laid flagstones, their whiteness contrasting pleasantly with the green turf and with the vines around the portal.



DALE ABBEY CHURCH, DERBYSHIRE.

This is an excellent specimen of Derbyshire's old church interiors, the massive supports and finishings of solid oak according well with the character of the edifice. The dominant impression made on the beholder is that the equipment is severe and the illumination bad, but changes in these respects would amount to modernization and take away much of the austerity which is the most becoming characteristic of these old structures.



HADDON HALL, DERBYSHIRE, ON THE RIVER WYE.

The principal part of this fine baronial mansion was built during the reign of Edward III., and it was for a long period the property of the Vernons. Through the marriage of the fair Dorothy it passed into the hands of Sir John Manners, and later became the property of the Rutlands, who still own it. The domain comprises 26,973 acres of land, being surpassed in area by none in the county except Chatsworth, which lies three miles to the northeast.



HADDON HALL—THE TERRACE.

The splendors of this old mansion's architecture are set off externally by the felicitous effects of its terrace, lawns, shrubbery and trees—all well kept and exhibiting the innate fondness of England's titled aristocracy for preserving the forms of a pomp and a display characteristic of another century. In fact, few of these old baronial halls are occupied save by custodians, and to keep them in repair, to guard against the ravages of time, is a serious drain upon the revenues of their owners.



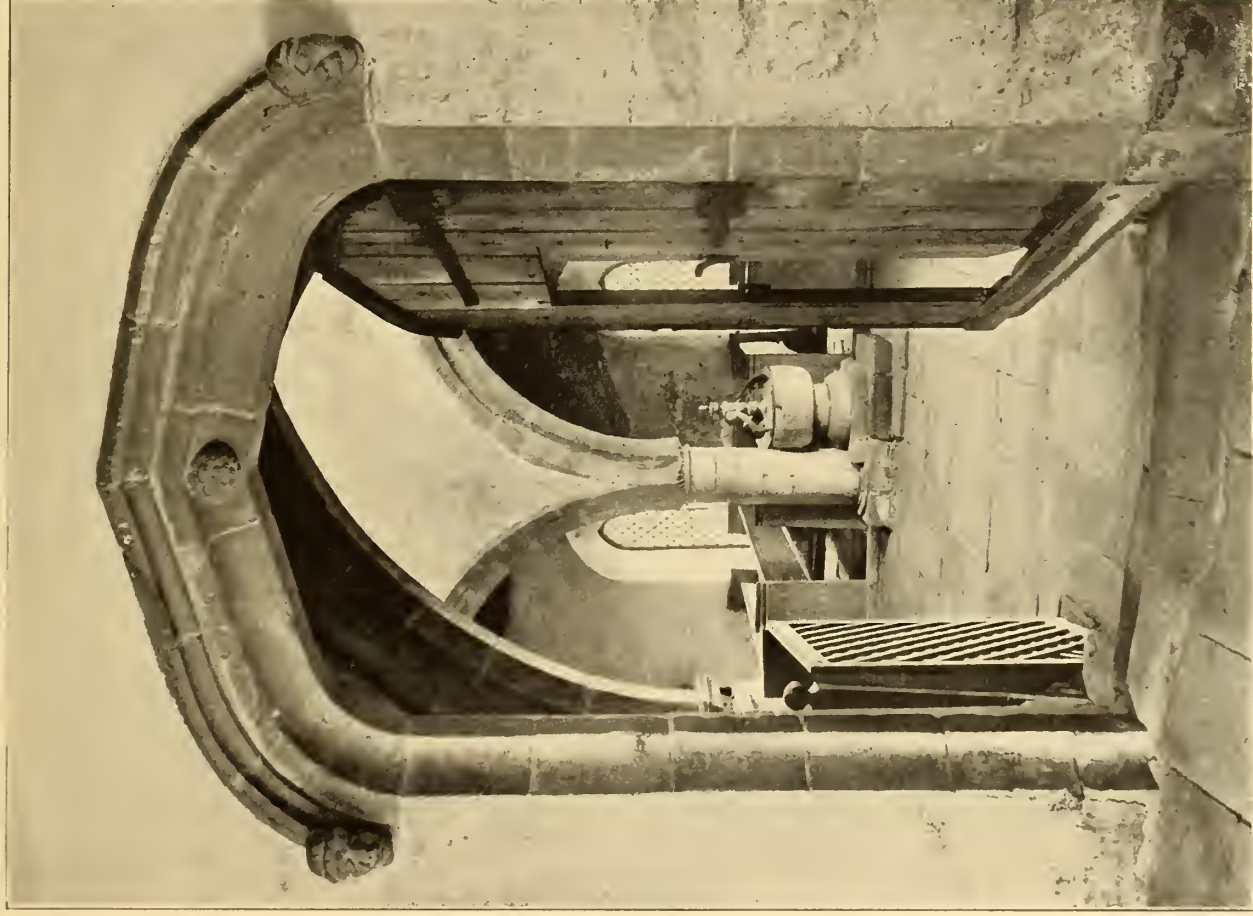
HADDON HALL—BIT OF SOUTH FAÇADE.

Placed to catch the slanting rays of winter's sun, these windows cover the upper half of a salient in the crenelated wall, and seem to have made a compact with the ivy in order to escape being hidden beneath the masses of verdure renewing itself from the crumbling mortar between the stones. However, the sunlight no longer gladdens with its warmth a busy *châtelaine* and her assistants within, and but for looks' sake the ivy might be allowed to curtain the window !



HADDON HALL — BANQUETING HALL.

Not the least important of Haddon Hall's chambers was the one wherein its former lords held their feasts and revels, making pacts of friendship and laying plans for war. The paneling of solid oak, the antlered trophies of the chase, the worn flagstones of the floor, all these point to that feudal time when England's pride was in martial, not intellectual, achievements; for Haddon Hall was built when Scotland was a separate kingdom and the Black Prince was overrunning France.



HADDON HALL — ENTRANCE TO CHAPEL.

Built in the fourteenth century when England was yet Catholic, Haddon Hall has its own chapel, under one roof with the vast array of chambers, halls and corridors which its walls inclose. Here mailed warriors took the oath to their feudal lord, and here were solemnized marriages which allied powerful houses. Deaths, too, there were, and forth from these unfeeling walls of stone proceeded collied youth and age — the hope, the stay of the proud House!



ON THE RIVER WYE, DERBYSHIRE.

The Wye, which is strictly speaking a river only during the periods of greatest rainfall, rises in the "Peak" country about ten miles northwest of Haddon Hall and flows in a southeasterly direction into the Derwent about two miles from this old mansion, whose acres it waters and beautifies in its course. In places its upper valley is quite narrow, but the landscapes offered there are inferior to those of its lower course, where woodland alternates with meadow, and contented kine gather to stand in the limpid current.



ON THE ROAD TO KENILWORTH CASTLE.

The ruins of Kenilworth Castle are situated nearly in the centre of Warwickshire and about one hundred miles by rail from London. The natural beauties of the castle, quite as much as its historical associations, have received a special glamour from Scott's celebrated novel, and many are the travelers who pass along the road in front of this smithy on their way to view the scene of Leicester's splendid entertainments.



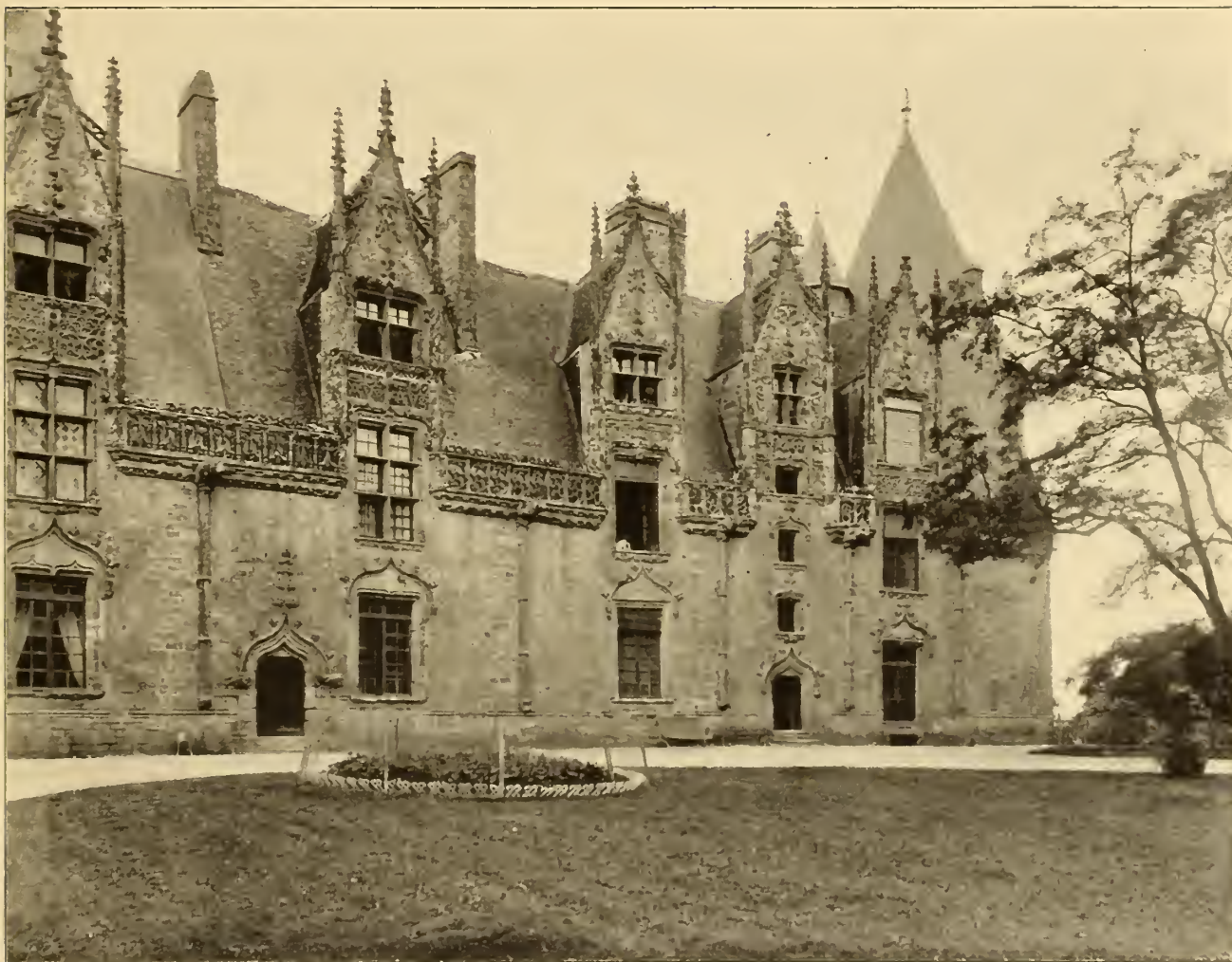
CHATEAU OF JOSSELIN, BRITTANY.

This well-preserved structure was partly built in the fourteenth century, so full of disasters for France, and it received important additions in the fifteenth, which was the era of Jeanne d'Arc. It was the home of the famous Connétable de Clisson, who died here in 1409, and it survived the convulsions of later centuries so ruinous to the mediæval strongholds of France. The chateau is now the property of the Rohan family, and is an object of interest to tourists who include Brittany in their route.



CHATEAU OF JOSSELIN, BRITTANY.

This view of the chateau reverses the preceding one, and shows the dilapidated portion of the old fortress, long since overgrown with ivy and fallen into decay. Though not so picturesque as the loftier part built with three salient conical-roofed towers, these lower, thicker walls constituted the place's real strength, for they sheltered the garrison's munitions and were impregnable against fifteenth century methods of attack.



CHATEAU OF JOSSELIN, BRITTANY.

If the lofty, salient towers and embrasured walls overlooking the water convey an idea of the old chateau's military importance in feudal times, the domestic life of its inmates is better imagined by means of this wing, whose Gothic dormer windows peep forth upon a lawn. The curious ornamentation around the windows and along the eaves is certainly of a later date than some in the main structure, but this is not anomalous in a French chateau.



AN OLD HOUSE AT JOSSELIN, BRITTANY.

Josselin is situated in the department of Morbihan, near its northern boundary and about twenty-two miles from the nearest coast. It owes its chief importance to the old chateau, but contains much besides which will appeal to the susceptible tourist. This is particularly true of its older residences in the genuine Breton style, with nothing perishable about them except the roof. It should be remembered that Breton inhabitants are French only in the sense that the Scotch Highlanders (Gael) are British; and that the Breton language has not been superseded by French.



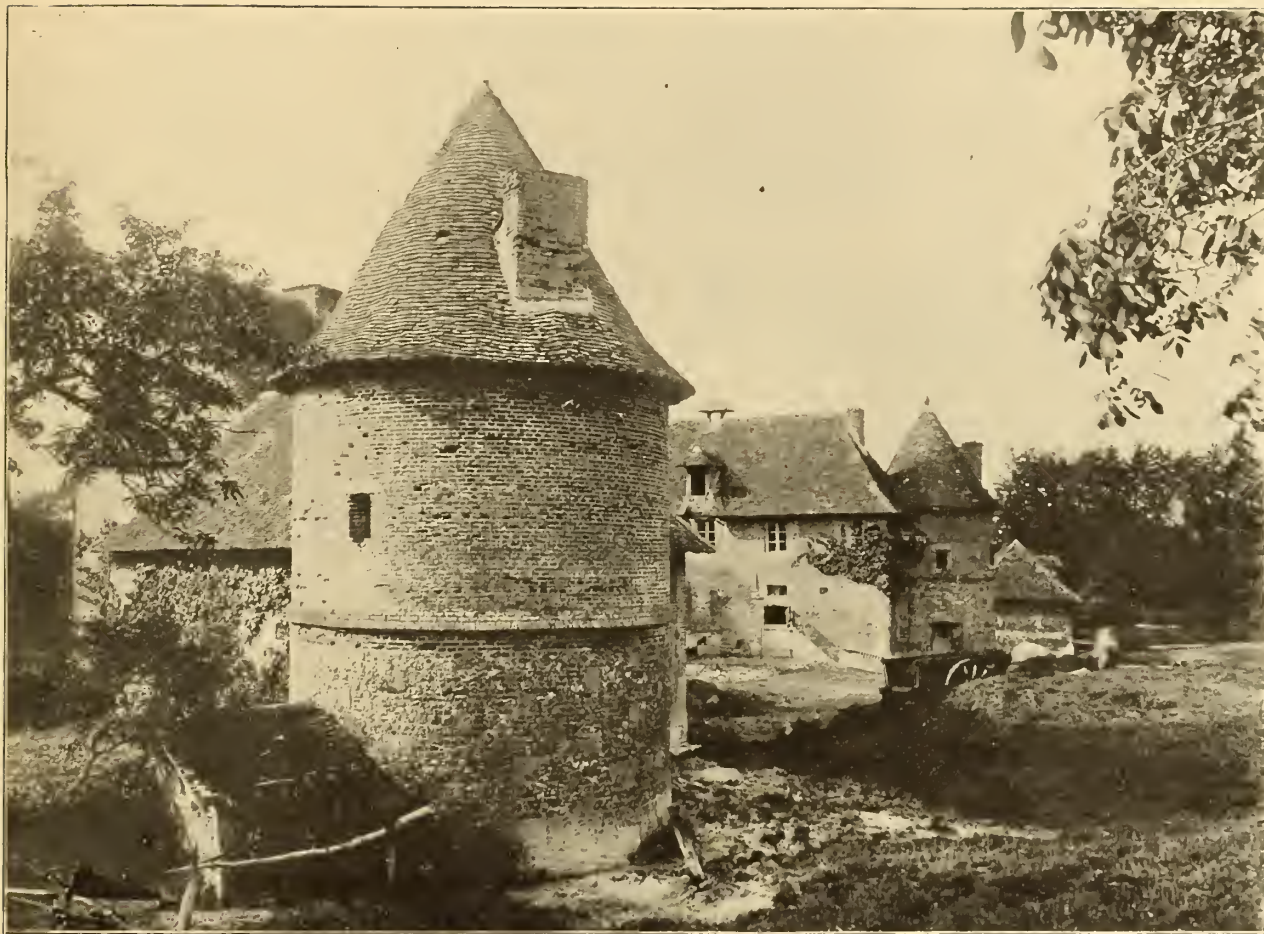
VITRÉ, BRITTANY. A STREET BELOW THE CASTLE.

The town of Vitré is situated near the eastern boundary of the department of Ile-et-Vilaine. It has a population of 11,000 and is noted for its Breton characteristics—specially exhibited in its older residences, which are of a type not found outside of this and other Breton departments. Some of Vitré's old houses are here pictured, together with a portion of the feudal castle whose grounds they long ago usurped. But for the poster "CHOCOLAT MENIER," the scene might bear a date two centuries earlier.



FARM DES TOURPES, NORMANDY.

Northeast of Brittany, and with nearly as much coastline, lies Normandy, one of the richest of the provinces into which France was subdivided prior to 1790. All of the departments herein comprised maintain extensive manufactures, and those immediately tributary to the seaports have large shipping interests as well. But agriculture employs the larger part of the inhabitants, and between the numerous streams which flow into the English Channel are found hundreds of large farms whose yield certainly, if not equipment, almost entitles them to rank with the estates of the hereditary nobility. Of such a one a view is here given.



FARM DES TOURPES, NORMANDY.

Another view of this old-fashioned farmhouse brings into prominence two cylindrical, conical-roofed towers of a solidity which might seem indicative of a former military use. However, their shape is merely for architectural effect, and it adds nothing to their utility as parts of the main building. Solidity, it may be observed, is a characteristic of rural architecture throughout France, as buildings are expected to last as long as the land, and the materials are chosen accordingly.



FARM DES TOURPES, NORMANDY.

A third view of these buildings shows a gable of the portion constructed of oaken timbers and braces, and filled in with a tenacious plaster or cement. The windows are few and mostly look towards the quarter expected to furnish pleasant weather. The roof alone appears perishable, and the ladder points to recent patching. The quarters of the working and other stock seem as well built as those of the family, and there is abundant room for storing the products as well as the implements of the farm.



CHATEAU OF MESNIÈRES, NORMANDY.

It was from Normandy that came the builders of England's old castles, and in Normandy are still to be found the most pleasing specimens of an architecture which, though no longer subserving the purposes of war, is a constant reminder of feudal times and conditions. The chateau of Mesnières is a fine example of a castellated structure, provided with all the embellishments and conveniences of a city mansion.



FARM LA VALLOUINE, NORMANDY.

This compact structure was built in the year 1602, and is therefore nearly three hundred years old. It is a good example of the rural architecture of the period, which still exhibited more regard for strength than for beauty. The plainness of the huge building is relieved by the two towers — one round and salient, the other square and set solidly against the corner as if to support it. The high inclosing wall completes the half-military aspect of the old farmhouse.



MANOIR D'ANGO, NORMANDY.

This palatial old manor-house, near Dieppe, was erected by that city's merchant prince, Ango, about the beginning of the sixteenth century. It is on a scale commensurate with its builder's wealth and power, which were great enough to fit out a fleet and blockade the mouth of the Tagus in retaliation for the seizure of his trading ships by the Portuguese. Disasters overtook Ango later, and he died in poverty in 1551. The "Manoir d'Ango" passed to others and is now one of Dieppe's objects of interest.



MANOIR D'ANGO, NORMANDY. MAIN ENTRANCE.

Through this portal passed Francis I. and his brilliant train when, on a visit to Dieppe, he honored with his presence the manor-house of the city's most famous citizen. The sumptuous entertainment prepared for the monarch procured for the host the governorship of Dieppe, and it is doubtful if anywhere in the France of that time better cheer could have been found than that dispensed at the Manoir d'Ango.



MANOIR D'ANGO, NORMANDY. BIT OF COURTYARD.

Access to the courtyard is had through the vaulted passageway in one of the wings of the building. This is sufficiently lofty and wide to admit the largest vehicles without danger of striking the masonry overhead or on the sides. Parts of the manor-house are still habitable, and its custodians derive no inconsiderable revenue from showing it to sightseers who frequent Dieppe in summer.



MANOIR D'ANGO. COLOMBIER IN COURTYARD.

The *colombier*, or dove-cote, is of a size to harmonize with the scale which governed the construction of all the accessories of the manor-house. The ingenuity of the architect was taxed to devise new patterns to be brought out in the wall by the use of bricks of varying shapes and colors. The bizarre effect of these is set off by the roof, which is dome-shaped, terminating in a conical ornament.



MANOIR D'ANGO. THE COLONNADE.

This so-called colonnade is on the visitor's left immediately after passing through the main entrance pictured elsewhere. The stones which support the columns show defacement, and some have been removed; but the carving on the archways, as well as the belt of stone above them, is still intact. Farther up the wall exhibits tessellated patterns, the colors being still distinguishable after three hundred years' exposure to the weather.



MANOIR D'ANGO. DETAILS OF THE COLONNADE.

A nearer view of these columns reveals better the care taken in their elaboration, and the beholder is seized by the impression that merchant Anglo of Dieppe sought rather to parade here his wealth than to erect a manor-house suited to the requirements of a resident cultivator of the soil. The event showed that such pomp could not be supported by the revenues of the lands attached to the *manoir*, and the property passed to others upon the bankruptcy of its founder.



MANOIR D'ANGO, NORMANDY. DOORS IN COURTYARD.

Nothing could convey a better idea of merchant Anglo's extravagance than the sculptures which adorn the doorways to his stables. The work of the artist has been partly defaced, and the cement has fallen out here and there from between the stones; but enough still remains to form a suggestive commentary on the useless expenditure. It is evident that he desired to surpass the elegance of the most aristocratic old chateaux, and only succeeded in making a tawdry *manoir*.



MANOIR D'ANGO, NORMANDY. DETAIL OF WALL.

Where the wall has escaped mutilation it exhibits a beautiful inlaying of black flint and Caen stone, following out geometrical patterns not unlike those the Romans were wont to use in tessellating the pavements of their courts and bathrooms. The general tawdriness cannot be denied, and it is not relieved by the massiveness of the walls; but when this work was fresh it must have been pleasing by its very novelty and the mathematical accuracy of its lines and shapes.



MANOIR D'ANGO, NORMANDY. KITCHEN FIREPLACE.

The visitor who has stood in wonder before the exterior proportions of the old manor-house is in some sort prepared for what confronts him within its walls. The kitchen fireplace — 11 feet 2 inches wide and 6 feet 8 inches high — is of a size to comport with the plenty of the board it supplied, and accords well with what tradition relates of Jean Ango's foaming tankards and laden trenchers.



CHATEAU DE HOUBLONNIÈRE, NORMANDY.

France is richer than any other European country in unrestored châteaux and dilapidated old country mansions. Not infrequently restoration has been attempted only to the extent of rendering necessary buildings habitable, while the remaining ones are left a prey to the elements or to the clinging vines and parasitic plants whose roots are nourished by the crumbling mortar between the stones. The traveler, especially if he be an artist, will be attracted by the beauty of such old ruins; but to the reflecting mind they are proofs of a decay which is inseparable from grandeur.



CHATEAU DE HOUBLONNIÈRE, NORMANDY.

This may serve as an instance of partial restoration, enabling the old chateau to furnish stabling, storeroom and a habitation for those who till the lands belonging to it; for it should be borne in mind that many of France's historic country seats are in the possession of men whose only use for them is to exploit them for revenue. The stone wall—too high and thick to have been merely a fence; the round tower—too massive and strong to have been simply an outbuilding—these show that the old chateau had a past less commonplace than its present.



CHATEAU DE HOUBLONNIÈRE, NORMANDY.

Another view of the old chateau shows the junction between the tower and the outer wall connecting with the main building. In each of the two angles is a sort of oriel window resting on plain corbels and overlooking the approaches to the portals. Ornamental pilasters flank both portals, and cruceiform niches in the masonry attest a religious use of this part of the structure. Only a part of it is habitable now, and the piles of firewood would seem to indicate that farm wagons alone use this entrance.



CHATEAU OF BLOIS, LOIR-ET-CHER. MAIN ENTRANCE.

This celebrated pile was begun in the thirteenth century, and received many additions from its successive royal owners. Louis XII. was born here, and over the main entrance an equestrian statue of this monarch keeps watch and ward beneath an overhanging part of the wall curiously carved and adorned with Oriental tracery. A combination of styles is seldom felicitous, but the chateau of Blois is a notable exception. The traveler is rather pleased at the sight of its abrupt contrast, the difference in styles, and even in materials, affording a confirmation of history.



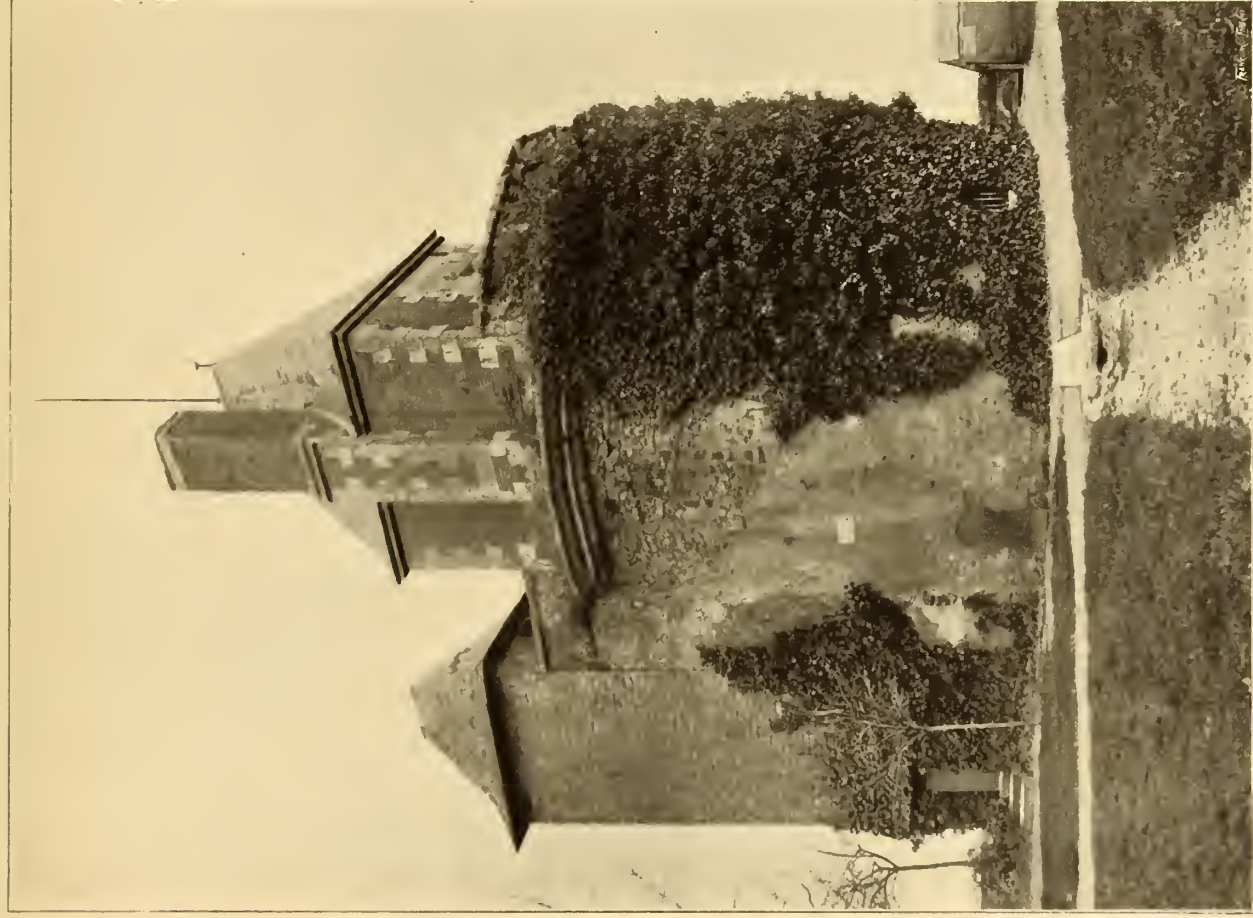
CHATEAU OF BLOIS. DETAIL OF STAIRCASE.

One of the most remarkable features of this historic structure is the staircase of Francis I. It is, in part, exterior to the building it serves, and thus the sculptures which adorn it are better exhibited. The ascent is gentle, proceeding in a continuous spiral from one massive column to another. Various allegorical figures exquisitely sculptured decorate the external faces of the columns, while the space not so occupied is devoted to intricate arabesques and heraldic devices.



CHATEAU OF BLOIS. DETAIL LOUIS XII. GALLERY.

A near view of certain portions of this grand edifice reveals anomalies whose existence seems rather due to the caprice of the founder than to the taste of the architect or the designer. Thus we have here three columns which do not harmonize, though they are so close that their dissimilarity at once catches the eye. Two of them support an archway, and yet their sculptured ornaments are entirely different. The column at the corner is composed of cemented stones whose flutings meet at an angle and give the semblance of a tottering shaft of stone.



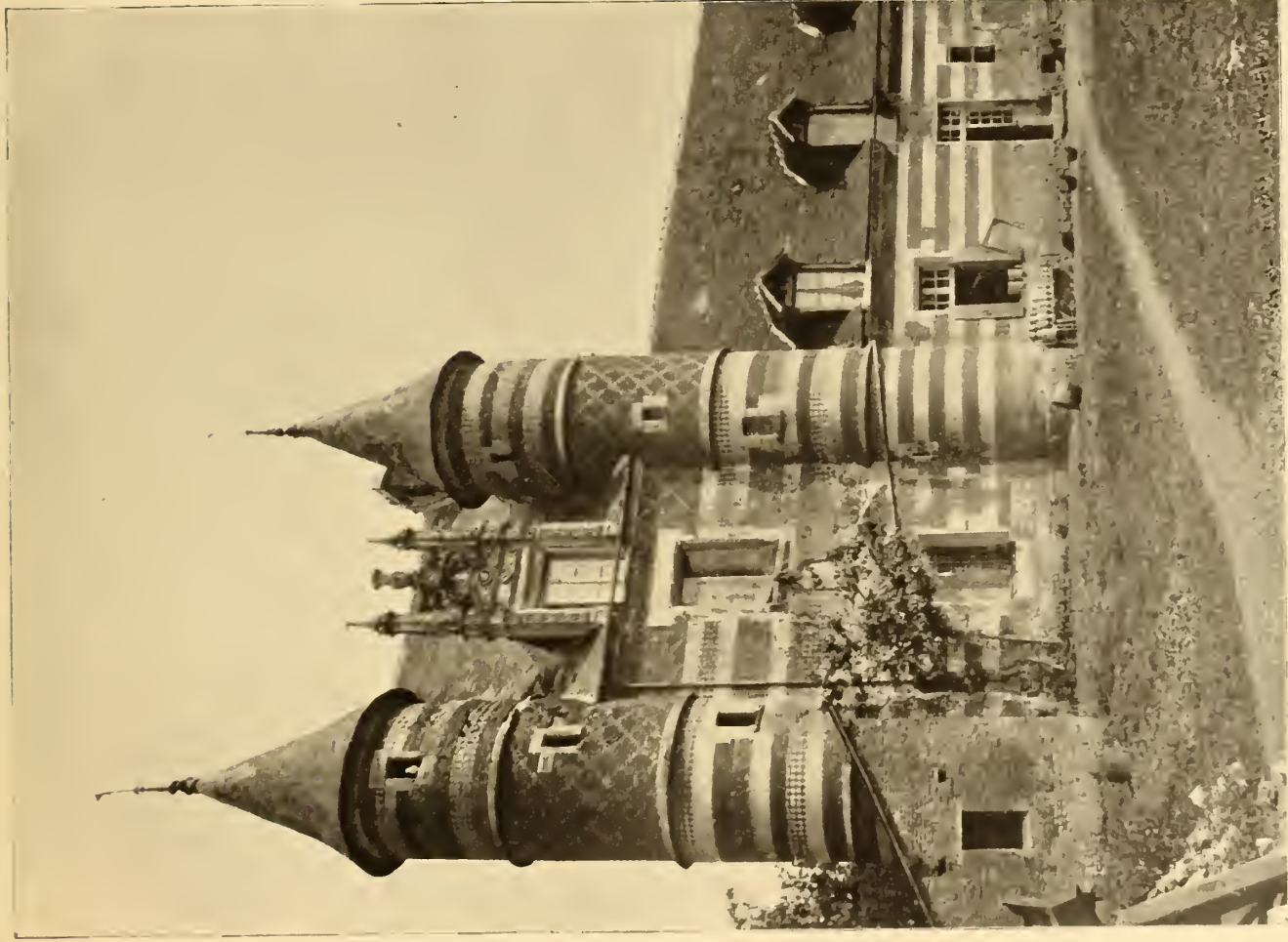
TOWER OF CATHERINE DE' MEDICI IN THE GARDEN OF THE
CHATEAU OF BLOIS.

It is said that Catherine, the wife of one French king and the mother of three, used to spend a large part of her time in this tower, some distance from the chateau. Here she doubtless matured the countless plots and schemes which cost the best blood of France, and, what was farthest from her wishes, the extinction of the House of Valois. The windowless walls are but little relieved by the wealth of clinging ivy, and the historical associations scarcely incline the visitor to tarry.



FARM CAILLETOT, NEAR BOLBEC, NORMANDY.

This may be regarded as a fair specimen of the better French farmhouses of to-day. In general arrangement it differs little from those of older date, and in the use of heavy timbers to brace the walls, as well as of cement or plaster to fill the intervening spaces, there is an obvious conformity with the traditions of building. The nearness of the chateau and the absence of a separating wall may be construed as pointing to the existence of better relations between landlord and tiller than formerly prevailed in France.



CHATEAU CAILLETOT, NEAR BOLBEC, NORMANDY.

In this chateau is seen the fondness of the French landowner for preserving nearly intact the buildings which have come into his possession along with the land. These picturesque towers and connecting floors are far less useful, less habitable, than the same amount of material in the form of a modern house; but the latter would be less attractive than these conical-roofed towers with their queer beltings of parti-colored masonry, surmounted by copings at regular intervals.



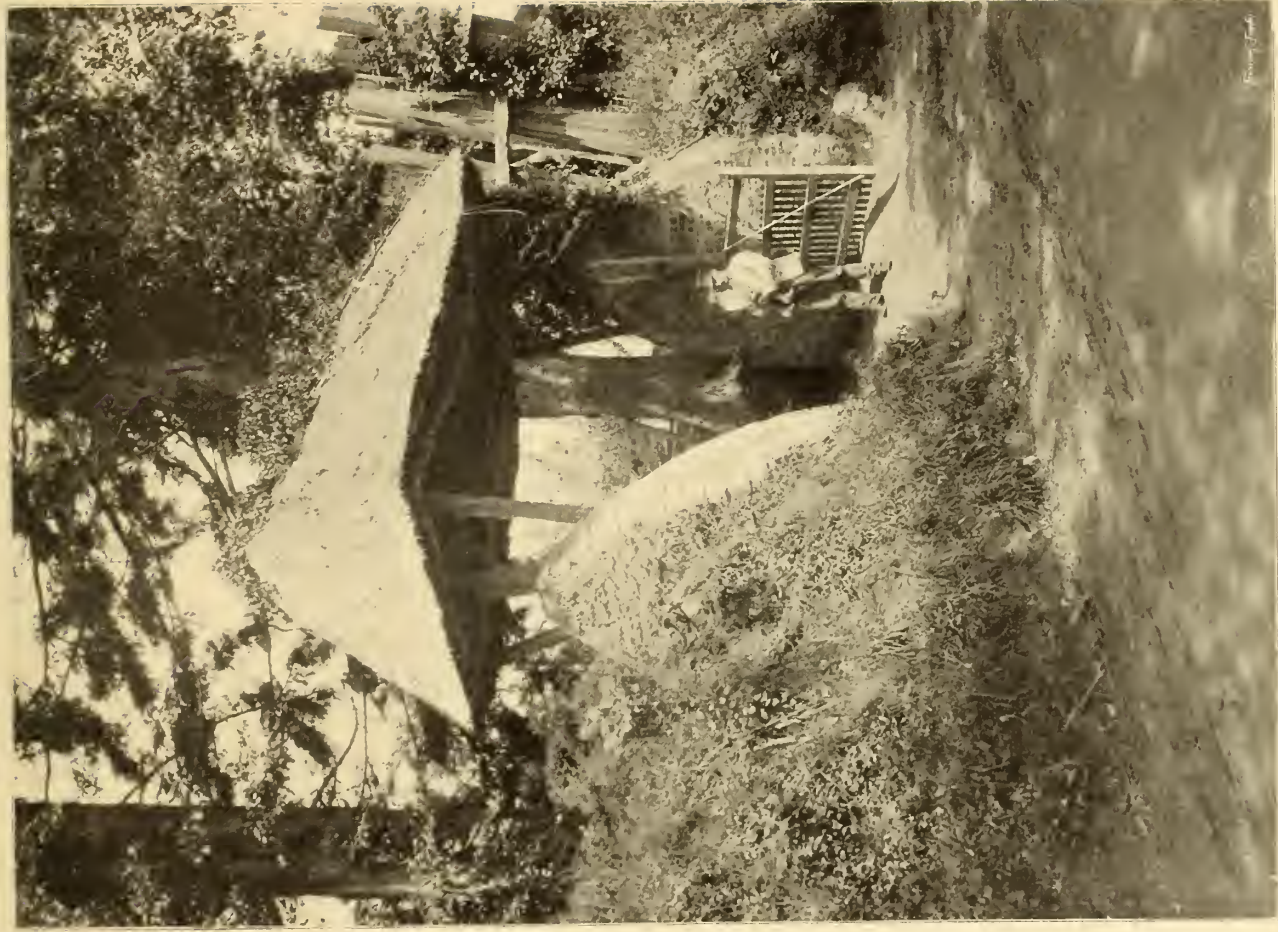
CHATEAU EPRÉVILLE-MARTAINVILLE, NEAR ROUEN, NORMANDY.

This chateau might well serve as the model for a residence in an American city, so effective is the arrangement of its towers and so striking is the view of the structure as a whole. But the practised eye will note a lack of windows, and regret that there are no trees and shrubs in the open space on the chateau's right. The primitive water-cart is suggestive, and the massive wall connecting with low-roofed outbuilding is one of the familiar features of a French country establishment.



BARN AT CHATEAU EPRÉVILLE-MARTAINVILLE, NORMANDY.

This illustration shows the barn of which only a part is seen in the preceding picture. The observer's point of view is opposite the main structure and not far from the dead tree-trunk and water-cart previously shown. The circular conical-roofed tower is not wholly for ornament, as it is the securest part of a building designed to contain the products of the chateau's lands until they are marketed. The inner side of the wall is bordered by stately trees, while farther in the background are seen fruit-trees.



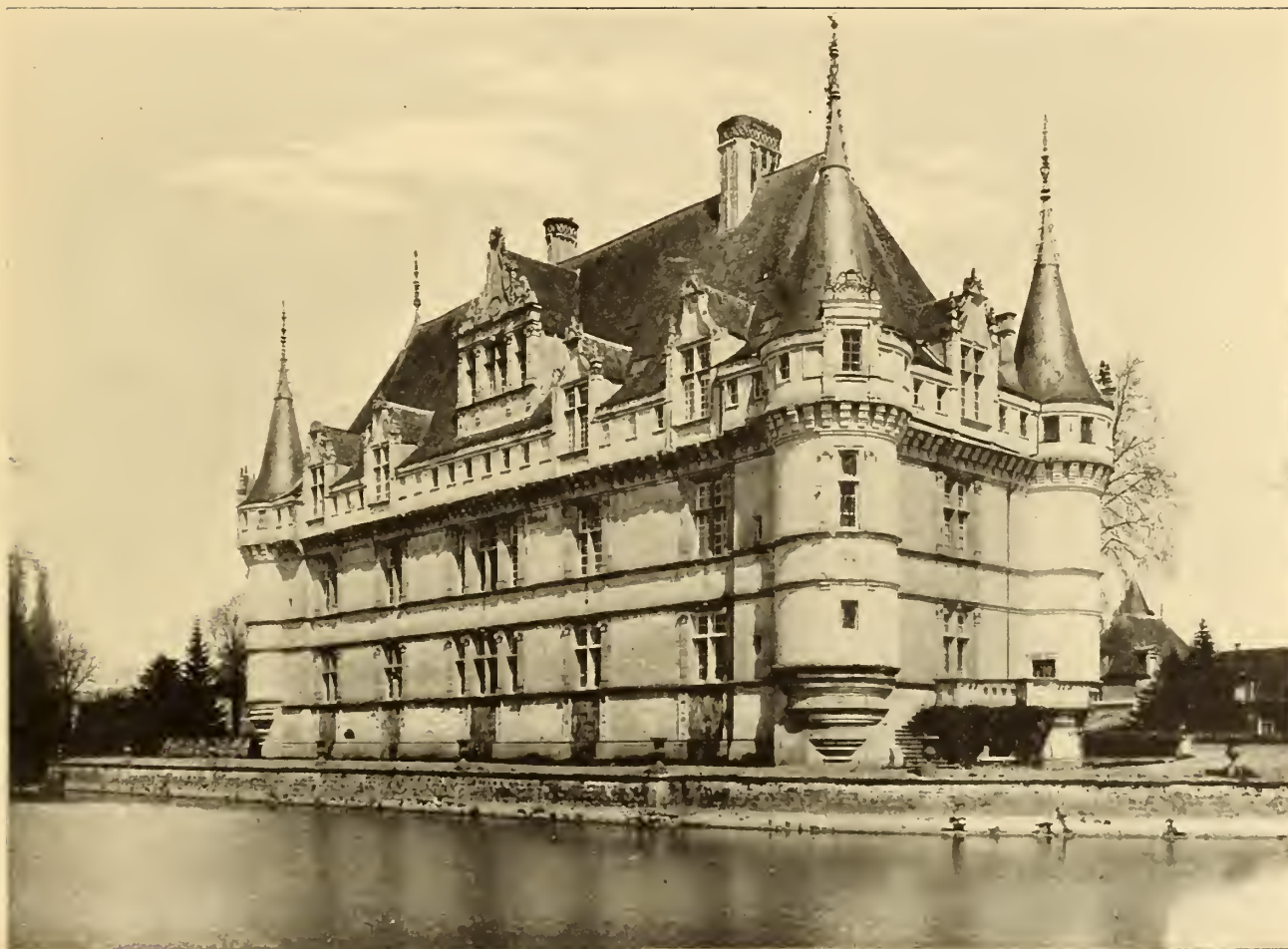
FARM GATEWAY, NEAR ST. ROMAIN, NORMANDY.

Time was, perhaps, when a smaller and simpler gate, flanked by two small trees, served to admit pedestrians and vehicles to these fields. As the sentinel trees grew, successive gates reached the limit of their usefulness until finally it was found desirable to give permanency to a familiar feature by the erection of two stone buttresses, to which the wooden gates might be securely anchored. Overhead, a rustic roof completed the work, sheltering against the rain and snow.



HALF TIMBER PORCH AT BEUVRON, NORMANDY.

A curious survival of old-time building methods is exhibited in the porches of some Norman houses. The framing of unusually heavy timbers is accurately cut and mortised to fit, being held together by wooden pins through the tenons. As compared with the present American process of "toe-nailing" timbers, mortises and tenons are laborious; but some of these old French porches and upper stories are old enough to attest the honesty of the work done on them, and they bid fair to last a good many years longer.



CHATEAU AZAY-LE-RIDEAU, INDRE-ET-LOIRE.

This well-preserved sixteenth-century chateau is situated in the town of the same name on the Indre, not far from its confluence with the Loire. Its four flanking towers with high conical roofs, no less than the arrangement of its large ornamental dormer-windows, render it a conspicuous feature of the landscape, and many are the travelers who come here to view it. The masonry which protects the river bank has suffered some from the erosion of the water, but the chateau itself has fared better than most of its contemporaries.



FARMHOUSE AT ST. CONTEST, NORMANDY.

This ivy-mantled structure might easily pass for an old English rectory, so little does its exterior suggest the real pursuits of its occupants, and so much does its appearance remind one of the seclusion in which a country clergyman in England lives. The windows and niches of the tower give it rather a conventual air, and there is an absence of the usual signs of rural industry as practised in France.



FARMHOUSE NEAR YVETOT, NORMANDY.

The farms on the plateau of Caux, where Yvetot is situated, are nearly all surrounded by earthen dykes on which are planted forest-trees, mostly beech and oak. These afford adequate shelter to apple and pear-trees, whose yield adds materially to the wealth of the inhabitants. That they do not deny themselves the comforts of life is sufficiently shown by their substantial farm-houses, with commodious outbuildings in which the products of their toil are stored. Many of these dwellings of stone, or of brick with stone facings, are much above the average of French country abodes.



BARNYARD AT CORMERY, INDRE-ET-LOIRE.

The department of Indre-et-Loire is near the centre of France and in its rural architecture, as in its people, differs greatly from the departments of the north along the English Channel. The farmers, while industrious, are more closely bound to traditional methods, as is seen in their immense and unsightly barns, which combine the functions of stables, granaries, store-houses, and not infrequently of dwellings also. They are characterized by large roofs and lack of windows or other means of ventilation, and according to American notions are deficient in conveniences inside and outside.



NEAR LISIEUX, NORMANDY.

As an important town in a department (Calvados) celebrated for its varied industries and extensive resources, Lisieux might be expected to show in its environs only the most modern aspects of French rural architecture. However, the old-fashioned timbered houses appear here and there, and their picturesqueness is more gratifying to the eye than the regular proportions of recent constructions. In the fruit-growing sections, especially, there are many old farmhouses framed a hundred years ago, and their present possessors seem disinclined to replace them with new ones in keeping with their means.



FARMHOUSE AT LE MESNIL-MAUGER, NORMANDY.

Of more modern design than the farmhouse shown in the preceding illustration, this one may be taken as the average among the smaller proprietors throughout the fruit-growing, the cider-producing parts of Normandy. While it exhibits some resemblance to the ancient timbered houses, its general arrangement is quite different, and in provisions for light and air we may recognize the influence of the landed aristocracy, who have sought to make their estates more profitable by building comfortable dwellings to make them more attractive to the better class of tenants.



BARN AT CHATEAU CLÈRES, NORMANDY.

That tastefulness need not be sacrificed to utility is exhibited in this structure, which preserves the forms and characteristics of the old-fashioned French architecture and yet meets the requirements of modern agriculture. The tower, the windows, the timbers with plaster between forming the outer wall — all these features are present in the modern building, but of proportions and in an arrangement to satisfy the eye and harmonize with the chateau to which the barn is an adjunct.



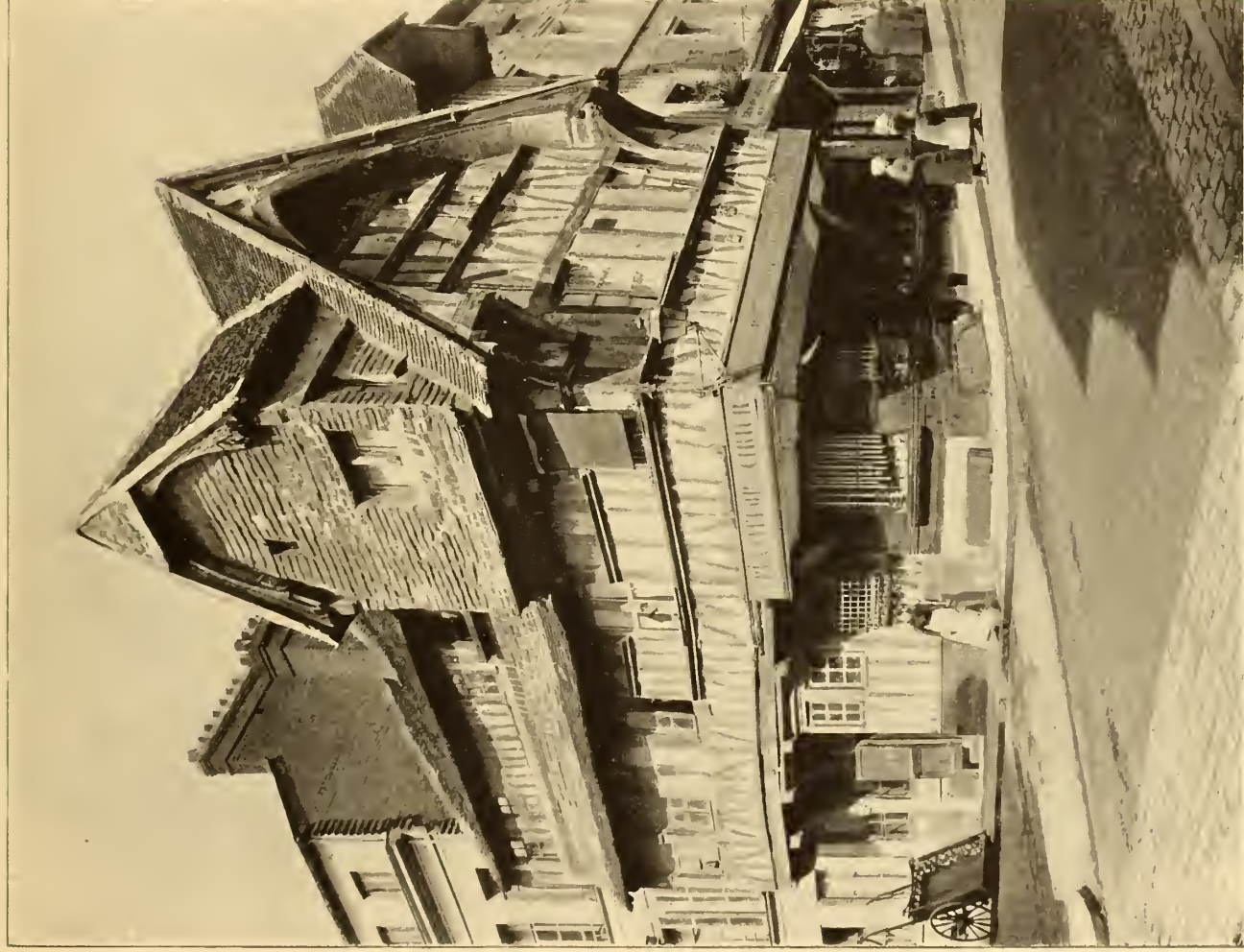
COLOMBIER AT CLAVILLE, NORMANDY.

The *colombier*, or dove-cote, is a familiar feature in rural France, though only the larger establishments make it an architectural feature as well. Pigeons are looked after with the same care that makes chickens, geese and other poultry so profitable there, and the *colombier* is a well-built pigeon-house adapted to the needs of its feathered inmates. The dove-cote in the illustration is polygonal in shape, but the circular form is quite as common. The conical roof is nearly universal for this, as well as for any other tower-like structure throughout France.



CHATEAU AT BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER, NORMANDY.

Among the smaller châteaux whose location seems to point to mediæval conditions is the one pictured above. Time was, perhaps, when this shallow stream answered as a moat guarding the wall on that side; but obviously the structure of that former period has disappeared, its stones furnishing materials for the newer walls which arose on the site. A part of the inclosing wall has been brought to a lower level to suit changed conditions, and the stream has been suffered to choke up, so that now it is merely a duck-pond.



STREET SCENE IN LISIEUX, NORMANDY.

In Normandy, and in general throughout northern France, even the largest towns contain queer timbered houses, more than two hundred years old, and these are frequently found in situations where the conditions of business would justify modern structures. One of these centenarian buildings is here shown, occupying an important business corner and flanked by large modern structures. The ground floor is occupied by a *cirier*, or dealer in wax candles, while the upper floors serve as residences.



MANOIR AT LE QUESNOY.

This manor-house preserves the general characteristics of the Norman type, and the property differs from the ones previously shown mainly in the better provision of trees by which it has been sought here to lessen the effects of summer's heat and winter's cold. Like most old manor-houses of northern France its exterior is relieved by none of the architectural fancies which distinguish the villas along the coast; but seen through the foliage the steep roof, the round tower and solid walls are not displeasing.



FARMHOUSE NEAR CHATEAU CHAUMONT, LOIR-ET-CHER.

The department of Loir-et-Cher is agriculturally one of the richest in central France, and its prosperous farmers are provided with the essentials of comfortable living, not the least of which are well-built dwellings, in some instances approximating the size of the less pretentious manor-houses. The dwelling here pictured may be taken as the average, though it is really more habitable than it appears, since the other side is pierced with windows in abundance and fronts an extensive inclosure.



MANOIR AT ARQUES, NORMANDY.

The department of Seine-Inférieure, in which Arques is situated, has a population twice as dense as the average for France, and its extensive manufacturing and marine interests have stimulated agriculture to a degree noticeable in the architecture of the farm buildings of all kinds. The example here presented shows to what limit ornamentation in brick may be pushed without furthering the utility of the structure and sometimes at the expense of marring its beauty.



BARN AT GODERVILLE, NORMANDY.

This singular union of brick and stone in the walls of a barn must be regarded as a concession to the eye, since it adds nothing to their strength and much to their cost. Even the eye, unless it be that of a Norman, is less satisfied with parti-colored masonry than it would be with a better arrangement for lighting the ground floor, where the animals are housed and, near the coast, spend so large a part of their time during the inclement months of the year.



STE. MARIE DES ANGLAIS, NORMANDY.

Centuries ago many of France's northern provinces were held by the English, and evidence of their occupation, rather military than civil, is furnished by many names of places. The one above means "St. Mary of the English," and while the building will scarcely carry the mind back to the fifteenth century, it is certainly older than would be surmised at first sight. The tower is a characteristic feature of rural architecture, and this one is after the ancient pattern.



FARM DU TEMPLE, NEAR GOURNAY, NORMANDY.

Gournay is situated about fifty miles northwest of Paris, in Seine-Inférieure, one of the richest departments formed out of the old province of Normandy. The extensive development of its manufactures naturally advanced its farming interests, and in every section where the conditions permit, the cultivation of the soil has reached a state such as makes the old farmhouses appear still more ancient by contrast. The external features of the one here shown differ in no wise from those already familiar, but the capacity of the buildings is noticeably larger.



MANOIR AT PORT-EN-BESSIN, NORMANDY.

Not all the old Norman manor-houses have felt the effects of the recent impulse given to agriculture. Some, indeed, remain in nearly the same condition as in the last century, having undergone only the repairs needed to keep them in a habitable state. An instance in point is here presented, the old structure having apparently so little recommended itself for restoration that its owner preferred rather to erect farmhouses near by.



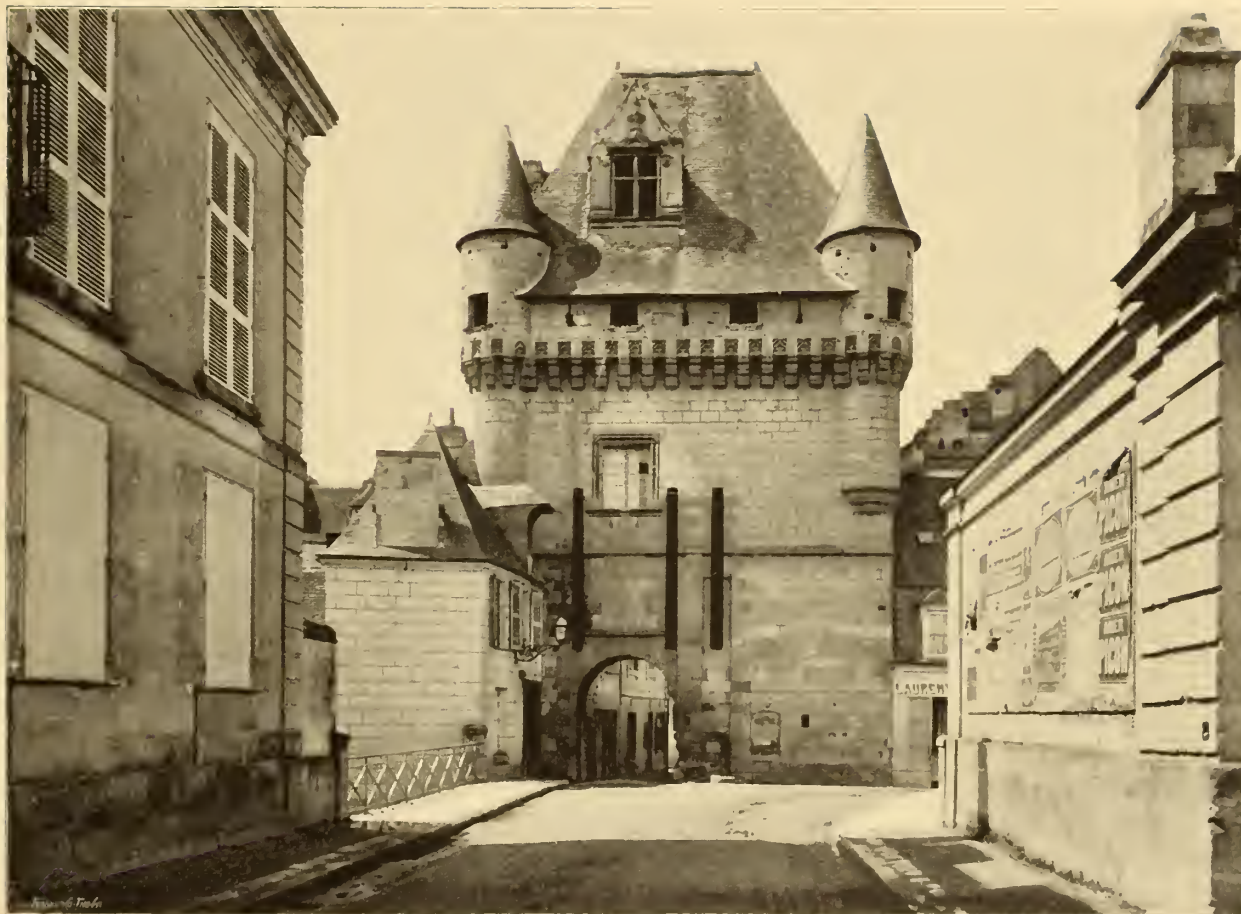
BARN AT CHATEAU LIVAROT, NORMANDY.

Occasionally are found unmistakable evidences pointing to a French landowner's desire to subordinate beauty to utility. The barn and stables of this chateau have not even that air of age which lends picturesqueness to so many of Normandy's inconsiderable country-seats, and though they may serve their purpose, it cannot be said that an inspection of them adds to one's interest in the chateau to which they belong. However, it must be conceded that all kinds of stock are well housed here and implements not in use are under shelter.



GATEWAY NEAR ROUEN, NORMANDY.

Rouen, formerly the capital of Normandy and now the chief city of the department of Seine-Inférieure, is situated on the right bank of the Seine, seventy-eight miles from the sea. Enriched by commerce and manufactures, many of its inhabitants have erected handsome residences in the city's environs or purchased and remodeled the old manor-houses of the bankrupt landed aristocracy in the vicinity. The entrance to the grounds of one such rejuvenated country-seat is shown above, and the beholder is pleased to note that the old masonry has been allowed to stand.



LOCHES, INDRE-ET-LOIRE, PORTE DES CORDELIERS.

In proportion to its size Loches surpasses most towns of central France in the number and variety of its objects possessing historical interest. Among these must be reckoned the *Porte des Cordeliers* (gate of the Franciscans — an order of monks who wore a *cord* as a girdle), one of the best-preserved examples of this kind that have come down to us from the fifteenth century. Its masonry is perfect, save where vehicles have marred it in the doorway, and the symmetry of its towers surmounting a belt of corbels catches the eye from afar.



MANOIR DE VITANVALL, NEAR LE HAVRE, NORMANDY.

Being one of the most important seaports of France, and therefore subject to modernization, Le Havre (or Havre, as it is usually called in English) would scarcely be expected to have inside its limits or in its immediate vicinity many structures dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. However, it has, and many of the well-to-do country residents occupy houses and cultivate farms that have changed little in the last three or four centuries. One such primitive dwelling will suffice as an example, being of the familiar "timbered" style of construction.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 020 657 455 0